

## Message Text

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67

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 CU-02 /070 W

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P R 080249Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2620

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6956

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, XH

SUBJECT: ROKG CONTACTS WITH EASTERN EUROPE - ATHLETES TO MOSCOW

1. A SIXTEEN MEMBER SOUTH KOREAN ATHLETIC TEAM HAS BEEN GIVEN ENTRY VISAS TO TAKE PART IN TWO WORLD GAMES OPENING IN THE USSR IN SEPTEMBER. ELEVEN KOREAN WRESTLERS LEFT FOR MOSCOW VIA TOKYO SEPTEMBER 5 TO PARTICIPATE IN WORLD WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS SEPTEMBER 15-23. A FIVE-MAN WEIGHT-LIFTING TEAM LEAVES SEPTEMBER 12 FOR WEIGHTLIFTING CHAMPIONSHIP TO BE HELD SEPTEMBER 10-21.

2. THIS WILL BE ONLY THE SECOND TIME ROK ATHLETES HAVE PARTICIPATED IN INTERNATIONAL SPORTING EVENTS IN THE USSR. WHEN ROK ATHLETES PARTICIPATED IN THE WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES IN MOSCOW IN AUGUST 1973, NORTH KOREA BOYCOTTED THE GAMES, CHARGING THAT ROK PARTICIPATION WOULD BREAK SOCIALIST COUNTRY SOLIDARITY. SUBSEQUENTLY ROK ATHLETES HAD NOT

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BEEN INVITED TO USSR.

3. ACCORDING TO MOFA OFFICIAL, VISAS WERE ISSUED BY SOVIET EMBASSY IN TOKYO, BUT ONLY AFTER ROKG MADE DEMARCHE TO SOVIET MISSION IN GENEVA. ROKG BELIEVES UPCOMING 1980 OLYMPICS IN MOSCOW MAY HAVE INFLUENCED SOVIETS TO ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH IMPRESSION THAT POLITICS WILL NOT GOVERN ATTENDANCE AT SPORTING EVENTS IN THE USSR.

4. MOFA OFFICIAL ALSO CONFIRMED THAT ROKG IS SEEKING VISAS IN TOKYO FOR ROK DELEGATION TO MEETING OF UN ASSOCIATIONS IN MOSCOW OCTOBER -16. MOFA IS ALSO CONTEMPLATING TRADE MISSIONS TO SEVERAL EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING YUGOSLAVIA AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THE ROKG EXPECTS TO TAKE PRELIMINARY SOUNDINGS WITH GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED SHORTLY. SNEIDER

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## Message Attributes

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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 SEP 1975  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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